

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02436 191156Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /086 W
-----058514 201111Z /10

R 191112Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9007
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USCINCEUR VAININGEN GERMANY
JSC/JRC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2436

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, AG, US
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN RESPONSE TO U.S. DEMARCHE ON P-3 AIRCRAFT
INCIDENT

REF: A) ALGIERS 2432, B) STATE 210914

1. GOA AIDE MEMOIRE CLAIMS THAT AT 0841 GMT ON 28
JUNE, RADAR STATION AT ORAN DETECTED AIRCRAFT ON AN
AZMUTH 258 DEGREES AT AN ALTITUDE OF "200M" (ASSUME GOA
MEANS METERS). AIRCRAFT ALLEGEDLY FOLLOWED THE HEADING
OF TWO NAUTICAL MILES AND PENETRADED ALGERIAN TERRITORIAL
WATERS CROSSING NORTH GHAZAOUET AT A DISTANCE OF NINE
NAUTICAL MILES. AIRCRAFT CONTINUED 20 KILOMETERS
TAKING A HEADING 40 DEGREES AND THEN FLEW FOR 12 NAUTI-
ICAL MILES IN A ZONE LOCATED 60 KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE
ALGERIAN COAST AT 0900 HOURS GMT. AIRCRAFT DEPARTED
LATTER ZONE ON A WESTERN HEADING IN DIRECTION OF ORAN
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02436 191156Z

AND ENTERED TERRITORIAL WATERS AT 0913 HOURS GMT FOR A
SECOND TIME.

2. ACCORDING TO GOA AIDE MEMOIRE, AS SOON AS AIRCRAFT
WAS DETECTED, ALGERIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES ASKED CIVIL
AIR TRAFFIC PERSONNEL IF THEY COULD IDENTIFY AIRCRAFT.
THEY REPLIED THAT SIGHTED AIRCRAFT WAS UNKNOWN TO THEM.

MILITARY AUTHORITIES DECIDED TO FLY A RECOGNITION FLIGHT REGARDING THE UNKNOWN AIRCRAFT.

3. THE GOA OBSERVED:

A) NON-IDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT DELIBERATELY VIOLATED ALGERIAN AIR SPACE.

B) AS A RESULT OF ITS ACTIONS, AIRCRAFT WAS CONSIDERED "DOUBTFUL" BY ALGERIAN AIR DEFENSES WHO HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE ACTIVE MEASURES FOR AIR SECURITY IN ORDER TO CAUSE AIRCRAFT TO OPERATE NORMALLY OR FORBID ACCESS TO NATIONAL AIR SPACE.

C) IN ADDITION, THE AIRCRAFT WAS JUDGED TO BE FLYING WITHIN THE ORAN ZONE OF CONTROL AT ALTITUDES VARYING FROM 600 TO 1500 FEET, ENDANGERING THE SECURITY OF AIR NAVIGATION. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST CASE SINCE A NUMBER OF "AIR MISS" HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY REGISTERED BY CIVIL AIRCRAFT FLYING IN "CAG" TO WHOM U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT HAVE FLOWN DANGEROUSLY CLOSE. THESE INFRACTIONS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED BY ALGERIAN CIVIL AVIATION AND HAVE BEEN INSCRIBED WITH THE REGISTRATION "R".

D) ACTIVE MEASURES (RECONNAISSANCE AT A DISTANCE AND ESCORT) HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT WITHIN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
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PAGE 03 ALGIER 02436 191156Z

LIMITS BY PERSONNEL POSSESSING THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE NORMS OF SECURITY.

4. GOA CONSIDERS THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INCIDENT FALLS TOTALLY ON THE AIRCRAFT OF THE U.S. NAVY. IT FEELS, THEREFORE, THAT THE PROTEST OF THE USG IS UNFOUNDED AND DUE TO THIS FACT WILL NOT BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION ("NE SAURAIT, DE CE FAIT, ETRE PRISE EN CONSIDERATION").

5. GOA PARTICULARLY CALLS THE ATTENTION OF USG TO THIS VIOLATION OF ALGERIAN AIR SPACE AND REMAINS CONVINCED THAT THE LATTER WILL NOT FAIL TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE ACTION TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF A SIMILAR INCIDENT AND TO REMIND AIRCRAFT UNDER ITS AUTHORITY OF THE NECESSITY FOR RESPECTING NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL AIR SECURITY. HAYNES

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